

this great Nation. America really is a Nation of the people, by the people, for the people.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. EVANS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, there should really be no debate about stem cell research, given the immense promise that it holds for a number of diseases. This is an issue that is of paramount importance to millions of Americans who stand to benefit from this groundbreaking research. I know, because I am one of them. I suffer from Parkinson's disease.

This debate is being mired down in the politics of abortion, but it has nothing to do with abortion. This is an issue of medicine. Stem cells are never derived from an embryo that a woman intends to be implanted into her womb, nor are embryos ever created for their use in stem cell research. Researchers only use embryos which were scheduled to be discarded.

Clearly, these embryos can be put to better use. The scientific promise of embryonic stem cells offer hope that simply did not exist a few years ago. We cannot afford to literally throw away such potential. Every day that we continue research brings with it astonishing possibilities for enhanced treatments and cures for now-irreversible diseases and injuries.

Let us come together as a body in support of stem cell research.

SUPPORT ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of ethical stem cell research and in opposition to the destruction of human life. I firmly believe that we have a responsibility to respect and protect life at every stage.

The issue we face is not whether we allow this research. Both the ethical adult stem cell research that I support and the controversial embryonic research will continue on.

However, we must now decide if we are going to force taxpayers to fund this controversial embryonic research. Allocating Federal dollars for research that retires destruction of human embryos would require many Americans to fund something that they morally oppose. I urge the President and my colleagues to join me in supporting responsible and ethical stem cell research and standing for what is right and moving ahead with this research.

JULIAN C. DIXON POST OFFICE

(Ms. WATSON of California asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 8, 2000, Julian Dixon, a Member of Congress, died of a heart attack at age 66. On that day, Congress lost an experienced leader, and California lost a tireless advocate. But the loss of Julian Dixon was felt the hardest in the 32nd Congressional District of California where Angelinos lost a beloved friend and neighbor.

Yesterday, I introduced a bill to rename a post office in the 32nd district as the "Congressman Julian C. Dixon Post Office." This one small effort pales in comparison to the years of devoted service Julian provided to his community.

But as a friend and a school chum of Julian Dixon, I know that my neighbors in the 32nd Congressional District would be proud to have Julian remembered in this way. What an appropriate way to honor him, since he was well known for corresponding with his constituents by mail.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire California delegation, as well as any other Member, to join me in cosponsoring this piece of legislation.

FROZEN EMBRYOS ARE BEING ADOPTED

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Hannah is a happy 2½-year-old little girl. She is a normal, healthy toddler discovering the joys of life. In a few days I hope to meet Hannah and when I do, I will reassure her that there is no such thing as a "spare" or "leftover" person.

Although she may not yet understand what that means, her parents sure do. They understand perfectly, because little Hannah used to be a frozen embryo in an invitro fertilization clinic. She was what those who support embryonic stem cell research—research that destroys human embryos—callously call "spare" and "leftover" embryos.

But Hannah is neither "spare" nor "leftover," despite the fact that she spent a considerable amount of time in a deep-freeze tank that served as her frozen orphanage. The perky toddler could have been fodder for researchers, but instead today is talking a blue streak, and in a few years will go to school.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Hannah and other adopted embryos underscores why we should not spend Federal tax dollars to destroy human embryos to steal their precious stem cells. These stem cells are not ours to take. And given the breathtaking discoveries from adult stem cell research, which does not rely on destroying human embryos, arguments for federally funding embryonic stem cells is less persuasive than ever.

PUT POLITICS ASIDE AND SUPPORT STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of stem cell research. It is time for people on all points of the political spectrum to come together, support efforts to make stem cell research safe, legal and ethical. Stem cell research has the potential to unlock the door to medical knowledge for a host of diseases. We cannot allow America's health to be held hostage to politics, while medical research stagnates.

For people suffering from Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, or for those who have loved ones with these diseases, including cancer and juvenile diabetes, stem cell research represents hope for a cure. Yet by banning this research, either adult or embryonic research, we foreclose the possibility of improving or saving many, many lives. And who will pay the price? A mother fighting Parkinson's or a child battling juvenile diabetes. That is why I strongly urge my colleagues to put politics aside, support the promising scientific research of stem cell research.

□ 1030

RESEARCH MONEY SHOULD GO TOWARD ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, prior to coming to the United States Congress, I practiced internal medicine for 15 years, including treating many patients with diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. For that reason, I was very interested in this issue of stem cell research.

I have reviewed the medical literature on this issue. Today, most of the people advocating for the use of embryonic stem cells are bench researchers who like to use them because they tend to proliferate very nicely in the U.S. culture. That very same property makes them very problematic in using them in clinical applications.

There is today the use of adult stem cells in treating diseases. There is no use of embryonic stem cells in treating any diseases. Indeed, there is not even an animal model where we can take a rat with a disease and treat it with an embryonic stem cell.

Using embryonic stem cells in clinical applications is very problematic for the very same reason that the bench researchers like to use it, the cells tend to proliferate and behave like malignancies. It is not only ethical to use adult stem cells, it makes the most sense, and it is where the research money should be going.